

# HOUSE BILL 837

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CF SB 596

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By: **Delegate Malone**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2012

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Distracted Driving – Animals**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from driving a vehicle if there is an animal or  
4 animal activity in the front seat of the vehicle that obstructs the view of the  
5 driver in a certain manner or interferes with the control of the driver over the  
6 driving mechanism of the vehicle; and generally relating to distracted driving  
7 caused by an animal or animal activity.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Transportation  
10 Section 21–1104  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 21–1104.

17 (a) A person may not drive a vehicle if it is so loaded or there is in the front  
18 seat so many passengers as to:

19 (1) Obstruct the view of the driver to the front or sides of the vehicle;  
20 or

21 (2) Interfere with the control of the driver over the driving mechanism  
22 of the vehicle.

23 (b) A passenger in a vehicle may not ride in any position where he:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (1)    Interferes with the view of the driver to the front or sides of the  
2 vehicle; or

3                   (2)    Interferes with the control of the driver over the driving  
4 mechanism of the vehicle.

5           (c)    (1)    Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person  
6 may not drive a vehicle on a highway with any object, material, or obstruction so  
7 located in or on the vehicle as to interfere with the clear view of the driver through the  
8 windshield.

9                   (2)    This subsection does not apply to:

10                   (i)    Required or permitted equipment of the vehicle;

11                   (ii)   Adjustable, nontransparent sun visors that are not attached  
12 to glass; or

13                   (iii)   Direction, destination, or termini signs on any passenger  
14 common carrier motor vehicle.

15           (d)    (1)    Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a  
16 person may not drive a vehicle with any sign, poster, card, sticker, or other  
17 nontransparent material on the windshield, side wings, or side or rear windows of the  
18 vehicle.

19                   (2)    This subsection does not apply to:

20                   (i)    Materials placed on the windshield or rear window, within a  
21 7 inch square area in the lower corner, or on the side windows of the vehicle to the  
22 rear of the driver, if the materials are placed so as not to interfere with the driver's  
23 clear view of traffic;

24                   (ii)   Direction, destination, or termini signs on any passenger  
25 common carrier motor vehicle; or

26                   (iii)   Electronic toll collection tags placed in the windshield of a  
27 vehicle in accordance with the regulations of the Maryland Transportation Authority.

28                   (3)    The Administration shall adopt regulations to exempt from the  
29 provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection materials placed on the windshield of a  
30 vehicle in compliance with security measures required by a federal or State  
31 government agency and approved by the Administration.

32           **(E)    A PERSON MAY NOT DRIVE A VEHICLE IF THERE IS AN ANIMAL OR**  
33 **ANIMAL ACTIVITY IN THE FRONT SEAT OF THE VEHICLE THAT:**

1                   **(1) OBSTRUCTS THE VIEW OF THE DRIVER TO THE FRONT OR**  
2 **EITHER SIDE OF THE VEHICLE; OR**

3                   **(2) INTERFERES WITH THE CONTROL OF THE DRIVER OVER THE**  
4 **DRIVING MECHANISM OF THE VEHICLE.**

5                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 2012.